

THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. LXXV. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1866.

No. 16.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CLINICAL MEDICINE.

By GAETANO VALERI, M.D., Professor in the University of Rome, Italy; Hon. Member of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MY DEAR YOUNG GENTLEMEN,—You are here assembled for the very important purpose of examining with the utmost attention the manifold infirmities wherewith humanity is afflicted, of determining their various natures and degrees of intensity, of tracing them through their progress, and prescribing for them their proper remedies. In other words, you are here present to prosecute the study of the clinical department of the medical art, to put in practice the varied theoretical knowledge acquired during a course of four years in this University, and to learn how to convert it all into an agency suited to cure, or to relieve the patient. But if such be the intent which has urged you to frequent this School, most difficult, nay impossible, would it be to carry it out without having previously formed a distinct idea of the extent of your acquirements, or, to express myself more clearly, without knowing most precisely the *nature of the action of medicine* on the patient's frame, with *what intent*, and *within what limits* it is lawful for you to exercise it. Ignorant of all this, you will be acting with recklessness in a matter so delicate as is the health of mankind, acting like an artizan who would pretend to excel in his calling without knowing the use or efficacy of the instruments essential to it, or like a pilot who would steer his ship into safe harbor unknowing, or making no account of, the force of the wind, the primary and indispensable agency in favoring his enterprise.

In order, then, to understand clearly the sphere of the healing action, to determine distinctly the true sense and nature of that practical agency which you are to-day invited as so many artificers to exercise, let us, if you please, imagine ourselves to have been present at the cure of a long and grievous malady, executed with the utmost nicety of art, and to have beheld the patient at length completely restored to health. Let us, moreover, fancy ourselves, after this fortunate issue, to be called as umpires in deciding the following

controversy, which might have arisen among those who witnessed the said recovery: “*To whom is due the honor of the cure?*” Some would pretend to attribute it to the highly-skilled physician, others to the all-potent *vis medicatrix naturæ*.

Do not consider, young men, as futile the question proposed, nor so easy of solution as might appear to some at first sight. On the contrary, it is a question of the highest importance, including the hinge, the very turning point of the medical art, and daily brought forward by physicians themselves, by patients, and by the public. To be enabled to judge as to which of the two agents—nature or the physician—operates in the cure of diseases, or, to express myself more accurately, in what degree, and with what subordination, each of these two causes contributes to this effect, is tantamount to understanding in what true and efficient medicine consists, and becoming initiated into the exercise of it through the requisite knowledge of the respective value of all the instrumentalities indispensable thereto.

Who, then, cured the patient? or rather—to generalize the question, as we have to discuss the argument not as it regards an individual case, but the whole circle of infirmities—*who cures diseases, Nature or the Physician?*

Previous to pronouncing our sentence, according to the correctness or the falsity of which, correct or false must be the mode of curing, it is requisite first to examine what we should understand by this word *nature*, and in what manner it acts, and afterwards to define the scope and limits of medical action in the cure of diseases.

By the term *nature* is meant that *aggregate of natural causes and powers proper to the living man, which, though irrational and void of volition or discernment, favor and watch over his conservation in the state of health, and his cure in the state of illness, and all this with surprising regularity.* “Uti solerter sanitatem tuetur, sic optime morbis medetur natura,” says Sydenham. “Quoties vero naturam nomino, toties causarum naturalium complexum quemdam significari volo, quæ quidem causæ brute licet, et omni consilio destitutæ, non tamen sine summo consilio reguntur, dum suas quæque operationes edunt, suosque effectus consequuntur.”

This definition, as you will see, is used entirely in a practical sense; that is, conformably with the clinical and experimental view of the subject, and from which I do not mean to depart, and which consists essentially in admitting that man, upon whom we try our medical action, possesses those faculties and powers with which in reality we see him endowed, as likewise in being acquainted with the order and laws by which they act and move. As the word gravitation does not express a hypothesis, and signifies simply this general fact, that every body tends towards the centre of the earth, without embracing the question as to whether this depends on attraction, sympathy, impulsion or other causes, so the term *nature*, in the sense we have attached to it, will not signify an abstract or hypothetical idea,

but the existence of the actual powers, which we see acting in the vital organism, occasioning its various phenomena, and operating with incessant activity and wondrous regularity towards its conservation, as well in the physiological as the pathological state, without regarding in what their essence consists. If, then, we contemplate with astonishment the efficacy of these powers, and the order and mode of their action; if the scope to which they unfailingly tend be that of man's welfare both in health and illness, it is all to be attributed to the infinite wisdom of the omnipotent Artificer of Creation. "Nimirum supremum illud Numen," continues Sydenham in the above-cited definition, "cujus vi producta sunt omnia, et a cuius nutu dependent; infinita sua sapientia sic disponit omnia, ut ad opera destinata se certo quodam ordine et methodo accingant, nee frustra quicquam molita, neque nisi quod optimum est, ac toti rerum fabricae, suisque privatis naturis maxime accommodum exequentia." Not otherwise writes Baglivi: "Naturæ nomine non intelligo sapiens quodam Phantasma vagans, et consilio singula dirigens, sed complexum quendam generalem causarum naturalium, quæ licet consilio destituantur, effectus tamen suos pariunt juxta leges a summo conditore inditas, atque ita ordinate, ut quasi a summo regis consilio videantur."

In order to prove that man receives and retains within him by means of his original organization and conformation an aggregate of special causes and powers suited to his existence and preservation, it will suffice to bestow a rapid glance on the functions which are incessantly at work within him; for function comprehends action, or movement, and movement the cause or force which produces it.

The fluid blood, so complexly composed as not to be reproduced by the most accurate chemical synthesis, although by the process of analysis its component parts are well ascertained, impelled from the heart, circulates by means of the arteries through every part of the body. Containing in itself the anatomical elements of our tissues, during its course, and at its contact, not only all the organs absorb the materials of their manifold and respective secretions, but even every cell, every fibre selects and appropriates to itself the histologic element from which it is formed, just as the beast of the field tastes and chooses in the flowery pasture such herbs as most please and quicken its appetite; while the molecules, already worn out and rendered useless to the economy, are secreted and absorbed, and by the current of blood are afterwards eliminated through their proper emunctories. Now this vital fluid, from having given to each organ the materials of so many secretions, from having nourished every part of the economy, that is, administered to each the *unicuique suum*, undergoes a diminution of its reparative substances. But returning through channels quite different from those by which it had parted, to the heart, the centre of its motion, it receives the product of the alimentary substances, wonderfully elaborated by an apparatus of organs surprising and inimitable in their structure; thence

passing into the vast superficies of the lungs, almost in contact with the atmospheric air, it becomes purified from the noxious gases with which it was intermixed during its passage, absorbing others of a requisite revivifying nature, and thus becomes, as before, the *pabulum vite*; that is to say, enriched again with all the various substances essential for the nutritive functions and manifold secretions, it continues its unfailing circulatory motion. In the mean time, as a result of all these processes of composition and decomposition, of assimilation and disassimilation, is produced a constant development of caloric, by virtue of which the body maintains a temperature proper to itself, and almost invariable, whatever be that of the atmosphere which surrounds it. But all this regards only the vegetable existence of man; or, in other words, those functions which affect directly, or I might say silently, his material preservation. Other functions are in activity within him, and of such a nature that, although as requisite as the purely vegetative to his existence, they are, notwithstanding, of a more elevated order, because distinguishing him from all other created beings, rendering him conscious of the vicissitudes enacted within him, placing him in close relationship with external objects, constituting him, in fine, nothing else than an intelligent, moral being. From the necessity under which he stands of receiving and selecting his alimentary food, he is provided with a locomotive apparatus, by means of which he moves wherever he pleases, and thus regulates his relationship with his kind, and with all surrounding objects; and whereas such objects are not indifferent to him, but on the contrary claim a necessary and indispensable connection with his being, he is endowed with a nervous system, by means of which he feels the different impressions derived therefrom, distinguishes their several natures, brings them near or removes them from him—in a word, subjects or withdraws himself from their influence. In truth, this nervous system, arranged in five different forms through the apparatus of five external senses, ramifying through every part of the tissues and viscera, terminating in the great encephalic mass, or rather, if you will, originating from it, is the truly marvellous organ of sensibility. By means of this, man perceives the various and distinct impressions of heat and cold, of sound, color, taste, and smell of different objects, experiences a sensation of well-being from the state of health, of indisposition from that of illness; it is by it that the soul within the brain exercises its noble intellectual faculties; namely, it feels, thinks, reflects, compares, discerns, judges, wills or rejects, determines the the body to motion or station, &c. &c. Finally, in the enumeration of its functions we should not omit that important and mysterious one, which is reproduction or generation. Performed by an apparatus of special sexual organs, distinguished into male and female, it is the result of a series, more or less complicated, of acts by which the individual begets a new being like unto himself, and thus perpetuates his kind through the ages.

Such are the functions of the human vital organism, which I merely mention with the sole view of giving you to understand that their continual and uninterrupted exercise necessarily proves the actual existence and simultaneous action of corresponding *powers*. But though we may all be convinced of this, there are some who might maintain that they are nothing beyond the common, or, in other words, are nothing more than those powers which at every moment we behold acting in the physical world. Now such an opinion would be lamentably erroneous, and in order to refute it we deem it requisite to dwell at some length on this subject.

You are all aware that physiologists, after having attentively examined our tissues, and the various systems and organs derived from them, and finding them, as they really are, endowed with physico-chemical properties (some being, in fact, consistent and tenacious, others extensile, others elastic, hygrometric, &c. &c.), have therefore unanimously directed their studies with laudable and unwearied zeal towards explaining every act of the human economy by the powers and laws of physic, chemistry and mechanics. Numerous, indeed, are the useful results and positive notions with which these studies have supplied us for the elucidation of the many phenomena of our frame, and it would be foolishness to deny their importance, ignorance and serious loss to be unacquainted with their precise meaning. Who among you is not aware of the utility, the absolute necessity of the laws of optics and acoustics for the explaining of the senses of sight and hearing, those of mechanics for demonstrating the phenomena of locomotion and circulation, the influence that chemical laws exercise over digestion, respiration, absorption, secretions, &c. &c.? The respective degree of action that these material forces exercise over the acts of our frame is a positive and undeniable fact, and constitutes a most valuable fund of knowledge, which we find every day increasing and becoming more complete; knowledge so necessary both to the physiologist and practitioner, and constituting one of the fundamental bases of our acquaintance with the human kind, both in health and illness. But is this aggregate of knowledge sufficient to demonstrate thoroughly any act whatsoever, even the simplest, of the vital organism? No, certainly. Mechanics, with its laws of equilibrium and its three descriptions of levers, will never be able to explain the sometimes incredible amount of muscular force, and much less will the anatomist succeed therein with the description of his successive zig-zags and inflections of the muscular fibres. Chemistry, every day more and more enriched with accurate analyses of all the fluids which circulate within us, will never succeed in re-composing by synthesis a product equivalent either to blood or to any other humor, much less to form a substance that can compare with a bone, a muscle or a nerve. Neither with the theory of affinity, of catalysis, endosmosis, or exosmosis, will it succeed in demonstrating how that bread and onions, as the saying is, with which yon poor man is nourished, can

be converted, equally with the fibrine of a succulent paste eaten by a *gourmand*, into blood so rich as afterwards to be transformed into the whole distinct and varied series of the hystologic elements of all his tissues. What law more fixed and general than that of the force of gravitation, which the whole universe obeys ? and yet man, at every step he takes, is being uplifted from the earth, and his humors incessantly ascend from the extremity of his feet to the thinnest tips of his hair. But, you will say, do not the degrees of calibre of the vessels, their valves, capillary attraction, atmospheric and muscular pressure explain this phenomenon ? No, certainly ; all these and such like causes doubtless contribute, each in its proper degree, towards producing it; but for its complete demonstration we must recur to the irritability of the muscular fibre of the heart and arteries, to the stimulating force of the blood, and to that of the nervous system, which exercise their influence up through the whole ramifications of the circulatory system. Now such powers, as you well know, are quite of a different nature from those called physico-chemical. And what will the professors of physic and chemistry say respecting the recondite phenomenon of the nervous action ? By which of the forces which regulate the materials of their experiments will they explain the transmission to the common sensorium of the impressions received by the senses, or the motive impulse communicated by the sensorium to the very nerves interspersed through the muscles ? Microscopic researches have succeeded admirably in discovering that the composition and structure of the nervous system results from the tubes and corpuscles, or cells, and moreover that the nervous motive fibres are distinct from the nervous sensitive fibres in the cerebro-spinal axis, and from the rachitic nerves; but notwithstanding all this, the cause of the nervous action is still a mystery ! The numerous electrical experiments have proved, that if nervous phenomena are not without an analogy with electric phenomena, they are nevertheless far from being an effect of electricity and magnetism. In fact, it has been ascertained that the nerves, contrary to the expectation of so many experimentalists, are bad electric conductors, and that the velocity of the nervous currents of the nerves is much less than that of the electric currents up the conductors of our physical apparatus. Electricity travels nearly at the same rate as light—that is, more than 500 millions of metres in a second ; the nervous currents travel about 16 millions less in the same space of time. What must we conclude from these facts ? The deduction to be drawn from them is quite clear. Taking it to be proved and granted that the physical powers, with their various properties and laws, do not explain completely, but only partially and to a certain extent, the functions of the human vital organism, since between them and the vital acts exists not that full and direct relationship which must exist between cause and effect, we are forced, on logical grounds, to admit and acknowledge that there is within us another principle of

activity, which concurs with the aforesaid powers in producing and explaining completely the phenomena of life.

What, then, is this other indispensable element of activity? this other singular force? Mysterious in its essence, though most manifest in its effects, as are in this two-fold regard all the material forces, which human knowledge has become acquainted with, and made the subject of discussion, this is the *vital power*, so called, conformably with the concurrent sanction of physiologists, from the universally acknowledged fact, that it exists and plays its part only during life-time, and ceases with it. Diffused through the entire organism, whether this consists of the first embryonic cell, or of the body arrived at its complete development, it resides not in one part in preference to another, but pervades equally all tissues and organs, the blood-globule, the muscular fibril, the nervous duct, the cellular lamina, &c. &c. It is no wonder, then, that the physical powers, acting upon an organism endowed by the vital action with such special force, are modified in their effects, and incapable of themselves of producing the numerous phenomena above enumerated; whence it follows that if any philosophic physicians, by defining life as a *contradiction of physico-chemical forces*, have exaggerated the importance of this fact, or rather interpreted it wrongly, it is true, on the other hand, that the physics and chemistry operating in our frames, are *special physics and chemistry*, varying essentially in their results, and exercising themselves not in the museum and laboratory of purely inanimate matter, but in the laboratory of the human organism composed of living matter; that is to say, endowed with a singular force which it receives from the act of existence.

But it is not my purpose to expatiate at greater length in the field of physiology; what I have stated was requisite to prove the actual existence and specialty of those powers, whose simultaneous and united action constitute the conception of "nature." In order, however, thoroughly to understand their signification, it is necessary that we should now briefly direct our attention to the spontaneous and wondrous effects, which result from these forces, which reside and operate in man, and which we have but just now demonstrated.

The first fact which presents itself, is the perfect order and unison with which the different parts and functions of the organism are linked together. Although this results from a re-union of tissues, differing in form, structure and uses, notwithstanding the limits which the anatomical texture seems to fix between each of them, they are nevertheless intimately associated, and harmonize into a truly wondrous *ensemble*. Granted that the different pieces have peculiar actions, different sizes, and various distances, the influence of the elements of life penetrating into, and distributing itself through each of them, they are connected by manifold relations, and mutually communicate their sensations and influences in such a manner, that all converge, all conspire, and concur towards the same end: the

tissues and organs, that is, constitute by their mutual action and symmetry the union, the *great one* of Hippocrates. The same may be said of the functions: could we conceive or demonstrate what nutrition is without digestion, this latter without circulation and absorption, absorption without exhalation or secretion, and vice-versà? And could these vegetative functions be effected and understood without the concurrence of those called animal or relative functions, namely innervation, motion, sensibility? Let a skilful anatomist or physiologist commence his description and explanation of our body with one tissue, viscous, or function, rather than with another, and he will succeed equally well. Tissues, organs and functions, all are so intimately connected with, and dependent on one another, that to commence or conclude this circle of activity with one point in preference to another, is a task equally practicable and regular. "*Nullum meā quidem opinione,*" writes Hippocrates, "*corporis est principium, sed omnes partes ex equo et principium et finis esse videntur. Descripto enim circulo, principium non invenitur.*" *De locis in homine.*

Engrave, I pray, my young friends, this fact on your memories; it is the origin, the efficient cause of a fundamental canon, indispensable for the study of the human organism, as well in health as in illness, and is as follows: That each part sympathizes with, participates and contributes towards the well-being or indisposition of every other part.

Another result of no less importance is, that our existence is limited by a certain space of time: "*Constat aeterna, positumque lege est, constat ut aeternum nihil!*" exclaims Boezio. The duration of man's life is fixed almost invariably, as in the case with all other kinds of animals, nor can the physician nor philosopher explain the reason why the lives of some of them are ephemeral and transient, while others enjoy a very long one. We may infer from this, that medicine is not an art, to heal all diseases, but only such as are curable; "*Neque enim fieri potest, ut omnes aegroti sanitatem assequantur!*" Between your action and the disease you will find the alternative of life or death!

On a like principle the organism has also a determined *time* and *measure* (and this too almost invariable) for its complete development, and that of its parts. Dentition belongs to infancy, the development of the organs of generation to puberty, the maximum of muscular fibre and strength is observed in youth, the exuberance of the adipose cellular tissue in manhood; and to be brief, we will state, that the other organic systems, the very splanchnic cavities and the parts contained therein, complete the degree of their respective perfection with a fixed lapse of years, becoming, at their respective periods, centres of an exuberant nutrition and special activity. In the mean time at our twenty-first, or twenty-second year, the skeleton attains its maximum height, and grows no higher after; so that if a certain latitude is still left for the further development of the body's trans-

verse dimensions, the *non plus ultra* of his longitudinal one is determined. When all the parts have attained, at the prefixed time and established periods, their complete development, the economy seems to continue for several years in a state of equilibrium more apparent than real, until following an inverse and equally graduated order, it runs towards its fatal decline. "*Old age is a second childhood,*" according to the vulgar adage; for when the intellectual faculties have relapsed into childish weakness, man's physical structure, and, with it, the harmonious degree and concurrence of the forces which animate him have undergone the law of gradual debility, as they had previously passed through their gradual and periodical development. The knowledge of this law is of a most *significant* practical importance. Firstly, by observing that in the physiological state, the economy increases, and develops itself *cum ordine, tempore, et mensurâ*, we may foresee and conclude that, even in the pathologic, the morbid processes must proceed, as in fact they really do, with order, time, and measure; secondly, we shall not be surprised by this other clinical fact, verified by all medical observers, that the physiological changes above mentioned, corresponding to the different epochs or periods of life, exert an influence over the production and frequency of the diseases peculiar to those splanchnic cavities in which such changes are effected. In other words, at the period in which the systems and organs become the centres of predominant development and action, they become subject simultaneously to certain morbid impressions and processes proper to themselves. For this reason it occurred to the celebrated Stahl, with exquisite clinical tact, to divide life into *three medical periods*; the first appertaining to diseases of the head, the second to diseases of the chest, the third distinguished by alterations in the abdominal viscera.

[To be concluded.]

DISCHARGE OF HYDATIFORM CYSTS FROM THE UTERUS.

To the Editors of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—On the 3d of May, 1866, I was called to Mrs. M—, aged 21, married, and the mother of one child fifteen months old. I found her flooding profusely, with a pulse almost imperceptible. She was tossing about on the bed, and in considerable pain. I gave her stimulants, under which the pulse rallied somewhat. On examination of the abdomen, I was struck with the peculiar condition of the uterus, which was as large as at the seventh month of pregnancy, but very irregular in shape, and very hard. Examination per vaginam revealed the os uteri dilated to about the size of a shilling, and occupied by what I took to be placenta. She was still flowing, and I gave her ergot, and detached with my finger the supposed placenta, thinking the case was one of *placenta prævia*. The ergot

acted promptly, and very soon the haemorrhage ceased, good contractions took place, and I removed a mass from the womb, consisting of a cluster of cysts from the size of a large shot up to an inch in diameter. I continued to remove such masses until I had a large chamber vessel two thirds full, and the uterus could no longer be felt above the pubes. During the process, stimulants and ergot were freely used. There was not much further haemorrhage, but the patient remained for several hours in an exhausted condition. The cysts were thin, semi-transparent, with little processes upon them, which some authors describe by the name of "hooklets." There was no appearance of any foetus or placenta. Some old clots were expelled immediately after the last of the cysts. The history given me was, that she had "flowed" for several weeks, but had neglected it; had had no pain; had not menstruated since the birth of her child, and had always enjoyed good health. She slowly recovered, having considerable foetid discharge from the vagina and some irritability of the bladder.

Was this a case of hydatids? If not, what was the pathological condition?

DANIEL E. WELLS, M.D.

Franconia, N. H.

[In reply to the inquiry of our correspondent we would say, that we are of the opinion that this was not a case of true hydatids, but of hydatiform cysts, the true nature of which has been the subject of much discussion by pathologists. High authority considers them as due to conversion of cells in the villi of the chorion into cysts, but this has been doubted by others. With regard to the question whether true hydatids are ever found in, and expelled from the uterus, Dr. Bedford, in his admirable work on the Principles and Practice of Obstetrics, says:—

"It is true, science has but slender evidence recorded of the true hydatids being discharged from the uterus; and the general belief is, that they cannot originate in that organ. Rokitansky, certainly a good authority, says: 'Cysts are very rarely formed in the uterus; we have not met with a single example in Vienna, and I myself have only inspected one case of uterine acephalocysts.' Here, then, is an admission that, in one instance, at least, the true hydatids have originated in the uterus. The admission, therefore, of this one case, while it proves the extreme rarity of the occurrence, conclusively establishes the fact of the possibility of these formations. Indeed, I do not understand what there is in the anatomical structure of the womb at all incompatible with the growth of these acephalocysts; it is universally agreed that they are found in other portions and structures of the economy—why, also, under certain circumstances, may they not originate in the uterus?

"But a most material question is this: Have we any reliable means of distinguishing the true hydatids from the products origi-

nating from the degenerated villi of the chorion? This question may be answered affirmatively—under the microscope, and sometimes with the naked eye, when true hydatids exist, it will be observed that the cysts are enclosed one within the other; on the contrary, in the hydatiform vesicles, these latter, which may be rounded or oval shaped, are attached to each other by slight pedicles, and have not been inaptly compared to a string of beads. These distinctions are now recognized as ample to prevent any possibility of confounding the one with the other."—EDS]

Reports of Medical Societies.

VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY—FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION. REPORTED BY THE SECRETARY.

THE fifty-second annual session of the Vermont Medical Society was held at Montpelier, October 17th and 18th, 1866—the President, Wm. McCollom, M.D., of Woodstock, in the chair. L. C. Butler, M.D., of Essex, Secretary. The session was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Wheelock, of Cambridge, after which the Society proceeded to business.

Dr. E. D. WARNER, the Committee appointed at the semi-annual session to "inquire into and report the facts" in the case of the "member of this Society" alleged to be engaged "in the manufacture and sale of a patent medicine," and "using quack methods of introducing the same to the public," reported that he had held correspondence with the individual, and ascertained that he is vending a remedy for diphtheria, which he terms the "Italian remedy" for that disease, but that the recipe for it is not held as a secret from the profession, but has been communicated freely to any of the profession desiring it.

The report was accepted, and, after considerable discussion, the whole subject was referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Woodward of Brandon, Upham of Randolph, and Morgan of Bennington, with instructions to investigate the matter more thoroughly and report at the semi-annual meeting.

The credentials of Drs. A. Millett and S. Phelps, from the Massachusetts Medical Society, and of Dr. Ashbel Woodward, from the Connecticut Medical Society, were presented, and they were cordially greeted as delegates from those Societies, welcomed by the President, and invited to participate in the proceedings of the Society.

Dr. E. D. Warner was appointed committee on the admission of members, in place of Dr. Russ, who was absent. Dr. Russ was subsequently present.

Dr. H. D. HOLTON, from the committee on the resolution of Dr. Perkins at the semi-annual session, reported several amendments to the Constitution of the Society, and an "Order of Business."

The report was accepted and adopted. These amendments provide for a Board of Councillors, consisting of one from each county in the State, who have the general oversight of the business arrangements

for the annual and semi-annual sessions, and to whom all applications for membership must be made.

Dr. J. N. STILES, one of the delegates to the New Hampshire Medical Society, reported his attendance upon the annual meeting of that Society. One item of business transacted, of which he thought favorably, was the presentation of favorite prescriptions by its different members.

The delegates to the Medical Department of the University of Vermont reported their attendance at the examination of the graduating class, their cordial reception by the Faculty, and participation in the examination.

The delegates to the American Medical Association, at Baltimore, reported a very interesting and profitable meeting. Dr. Holton gave a brief *r  sum  * of its proceedings, correcting the erroneous impression made by the apparent adoption of Dr. Marsden's views of quarantine by the Association.

The committee on admission of members reported favorably, and the following individuals were duly elected members of the Society, viz.: Drs. S. T. Brooks, St. Johnsbury; C. C. Smith, East Berkshire; J. H. Steele, Middlebury; L. F. Burdick and J. P. Kent, Winooski; D. G. Kemp, Montpelier; Laban Tucker, West Hartford; E. H. Pettingill, Saxton's River; and F. H. Goodall, Greensboro'.

Dr. L. C. BUTLER, from the committee to whom was referred the subject of the Registration Laws of the State and amendments proposed thereto, at the last annual meeting, recommended the proposal for adoption by the Legislature of amendments to the law, making the physicians of the State the registrars of births and deaths.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a committee, consisting of Drs. Nichols, Secretary of State, Porter of the Senate and Welch of the House of Representatives, was appointed to prepare a bill for presentation to the Legislature now in session, embodying such amendments to the law as are deemed desirable, and urge its passage.

The President was invited to deliver the annual address at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, P.M., this day.

A communication was read from the Secretary of State, accompanying the Registration Reports of the State for 1862-3-4—a copy for each member of the Society.

Dr. A. C. WELCH introduced the subject of certain statements of mismanagement and cruelty in the Insane Asylum of the State, made to the Legislature now in session, and the election of an individual as Commissioner of the Insane by that body, who does not belong to the profession. The matter gave rise to considerable discussion, in which Dr. E. D. Warner, Ex-Commissioner of the Insane, and others who were conversant with the management of that Institution, participated, repelling as unfounded all insinuations of cruelty or improper management made against it.

On motion of Dr. E. N. S. Morgan, the subject was referred to a committee of three, consisting of Drs. Butler, Fassett and Fairchild, with instructions to report to the Society at its present session by resolutions or otherwise, as they may deem advisable.

At a subsequent stage of the session, Dr. Butler, from that committee, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were

unanimously adopted by the Society, and a copy directed to be furnished to the several papers in the State, with a request for publication, and also to Dr. Rockwell, the Superintendent of the Asylum.

Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this Society, that pending the election of a Commissioner of the Insane by the Legislature now in session, remarks were made by some members reflecting with severity upon the Vermont Asylum for the Insane, implying charges of cruel neglect, and improper management of its patients, therefore,

Resolved, That it is the opinion and belief of this Society, that all such charges, or representations, are without foundation in fact; calculated to impair the confidence of the community in an Institution which, after thorough investigation by well qualified persons, we believe to be well managed for the best interests of those under its care—an institution of which our State may be justly proud, as affording advantages for the comfort and cure of this unfortunate class of persons at least equal to those of any similar institution in our country.

Resolved, That as a Society we believe, and respectfully say, that in our opinion the duties of Commissioner of the Insane—to watch over the interests of a great hospital—its sanitary, dietetic, and medical management—to investigate that most intricate and difficult of all diseases, and to protect the unfortunate sufferers from improper treatment of every kind, can be most properly and efficiently performed by an experienced and judicious medical man; and we respectfully protest against the late action of the Legislature in electing an individual to that office who is outside of the medical profession.

During the afternoon session, Dr. J. N. STILES read a paper on the *Treatment of Smallpox*, in which he spoke favorably of the use of Saracenia purpurea in cutting short its course. Dr. Stiles also presented specimens of the root and leaves of the plant.

Dr. Millett, of Massachusetts, had used the Saracenia in one instance, and found the eruption speedily subsiding and aborting. In other instances it had failed. It had been thoroughly tried in several cases on Rainsford Island, Boston Harbor, by Dr. Underwood, but without success.

Dr. C. A. SPERRY reported a case of *Retained Calamenia from Imperforate Hymen*, in a girl of 13 years. On making an incision, nearly a quart of black, tarry, semifluid substance was expelled with considerable force. For nearly a year previous she had had periodical, monthly pains.

Dr. R. H. PHELPS detailed an interesting case of *Wound of the Knee-joint*, in which a vigorous young man of 19, of sound constitution, stumbled upon a scythe, severing the inferior edge of the patella from its connections, cutting off a piece of bone three fourths of an inch long by one eighth wide, together with considerable cartilage, from the inner condyle of the femur, and about one half the same amount from the external condyle of the tibia, dividing the muscles and ligaments into and through the joint, exposing the whole knee-joint, and making a wound which measured over four inches on the surface. Under the application of proper dressings, the double inclined plane splint, rest in the recumbent position, the use of aconite to control the inflammatory symptoms, and subsequently passive motion of the joint, at the end of two months there was "but slight enlargement of

the joint, and no tenderness on pressure at any point." The patient can flex and extend the injured limb nearly as well as the other, and can walk comfortably without crutches.

Written reports on the Epidemics of Caledonia and Washington Counties were presented by Drs. Hyde, of Hardwick, and Putnam, of Montpelier, the former alluding in an especial manner to Diphtheria and Dysentery, and the latter to Typhus and Typhoid Fever. No other reports were presented.

Dr. S. W. THAYER remarked on the non-prevalence of dysentery in his particular locality, but he had seen many cases outside of it. He used mercurial preparations in its treatment, in this way :—**R.** Sach. lactis, 3*i.*; hyd. cum creta, 9*ss.*; ipecac, 9*ss.* Divide into thirty powders, one to be taken every two or four hours, according to urgency of symptoms. For the tenesmus he uses, and strongly recommended the chlorate of potash injection, as follows :—**R.** Mucilag. gum acacie, 3*ij.*; potas. chlorat., 3*i.*; inf. opii, gtt. *xl.* Misce, for a single injection.

On motion of Dr. UPHAM, a committee on Nomination of Officers for the ensuing year was appointed as follows, one from each county represented :—Drs. O. F. Fassett, J. N. Stiles, E. F. Upham, G. B. Bullard, C. B. Chandler, S. R. Corey, Salmon Brush, J. H. Richardson, E. D. Warner, E. H. Pettengill, Abram Harding, E. N. S. Morgan.

During the evening session, the Society listened to an able and interesting address from the President, on *The History and Progress of Medicine*.

On motion of Dr. HOLTON, the Society tendered the President a unanimous vote of thanks for his address, and ordered its reference to the Committee on Publication.

The Treasurer reported the financial condition of the Society.

On motion of Dr. FASSETT, the Secretary was constituted a committee to confer with the publishers of the *Vermont Register* and *Vermont Directory*, with a view to procure through their publications a more complete and correct directory of the regular physicians in the State.

Adjourned to Thursday, 9, A.M.

The Society convened on Thursday at 9 o'clock, A.M., agreeably to adjournment. The President in the chair.

The credentials of Drs. John H. Moore, E. W. Howard and William P. Seymour, as delegates from the New York State Medical Society, were presented to the Society, and they were cordially welcomed by the President, and invited to participate in the deliberations of the Society.

Dr. HOLTON, of Putney, read brief biographical sketches of Drs. L. E. Simons, of Saxton's River, and Dr. John Campbell, of Putney.

Dr. FASSETT, of St. Albans, read an elaborate sketch of the life, character and eminent services of Dr. H. F. Stevens, of St. Albans.

Dr. CRANDALL, of Burlington, read a biographical memoir of Dr. S. P. Danforth, of Royalton.

The Committee on Nomination of Officers and Delegates for the ensuing year reported as follows, and the individuals named were duly elected :—

President—Dr. E. D. Warner, of New Haven.

Vice President—Dr. E. D. Holton, of Putney.

Secretary—Dr. L. C. Butler, of Essex.

Treasurer and Librarian—Dr. Charles Clark, of Montpelier.

Corresponding Secretary and Auditor—Dr. C. B. Chandler, of Montpelier.

Executive Committee—Drs. O. F. Fassett, C. P. Frost and C. L. Allen.

Committee on Printing—Drs. L. C. Butler, J. S. Richmond, A. C. Welch.

Committee to assist the Secretary of State in compiling Registration Reports—Drs. O. F. Fassett and L. C. Butler.

Delegates to the Medical Department of Vermont University—Drs. S. Keith and J. N. Stiles.

Delegates to New Hampshire Medical Society—Drs. A. J. Hyde, E. H. Pettengill.

Delegates to New York State Medical Society—Drs. E. N. S. Morgan, H. D. Holton.

To Rhode Island Medical Society—Drs. S. Putnam, Laban Tucker.

To Maine Medical Society—Drs. C. S. Cahoon, S. T. Brooks.

To Connecticut Medical Society—Drs. C. P. Frost, C. H. Tenney, A. T. Woodward.

To Massachusetts Medical Society—Drs. G. B. Bullard, E. F. Upham.

To Connecticut River Valley Medical Society—Drs. G. Van Deusen, N. W. Braley.

To American Medical Association—Drs. J. H. Hamilton, Kimball Russ, E. F. Upham, L. F. Parker, T. T. Cushman, R. B. Skinner, S. Putnam, E. P. Fairman, E. D. Warner, A. T. Woodward, H. D. Holton, Abram Harding, S. W. Thayer.

Committee on Epidemics—Drs. J. O. Cranston, W. M. Huntington, T. G. Simpson, C. S. Cahoon, C. G. Adams, S. R. Corey, C. M. Rublee, J. B. Morgan, — Eddy, E. N. S. Morgan, Joseph Perkins, W. H. Ellis, A. H. W. Jackson, A. M. Plant.

Board of Councillors—Drs. W. R. Hutchinson, J. N. Stiles, N. W. Braley, G. B. Bullard, C. G. Adams, L. W. Adgate, C. B. Chandler, S. Brush, M. O. Porter, E. N. S. Morgan, A. T. Woodward, Abram Harding, J. H. Richardson, and H. D. Holton—one for each county.

Dr. M. O. Porter read an interesting case of *Ovarian Disease* occurring in his practice, in which the operation of ovariectomy was successfully performed.

Dr. A. M. Plant read a paper on "*The Old and the New in Medicine*," in which he contrasted the dogmas and practice of former times, quite unfavorably with the present, both with regard to utility and success.

The semi-annual session of the Society was appointed to be held at the city of Burlington, on the 28th and 29th of June, 1867.

The meeting was largely attended, and the exercises were very interesting and profitable throughout. The papers read were of a high professional character, and reflect great credit upon their authors and the Society.

A "*Home for Incurables*" has been established in Westchester County, New York, under the patronage of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the metropolis.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1866.

REVIVED MEDICAL JOURNALS.

SINCE the return of our country from the excitements and desolations of war to the more welcome arts of peace, medical journalism has taken a new impulse, and is now engaging the energies of many active minds which during those disastrous four years were taxed to the utmost in meeting the demands upon their professional skill. The universal strain upon the national resources during that period almost extinguished medical periodicals at the North, and at the South suspended them altogether. It is a matter of no little surprise to see with what energy the interrupted labor has been resumed, and with what vigor in all parts of the country the older journals have been inspired, and new ones have sprung into existence. This is more striking at the South, where, from the nature of things, the pecuniary resources of the people have been more severely drawn upon than at the North. We referred, some time since, to several of our new exchanges, and at the present time propose to notice some of the others.

From Georgia we receive three—*The Savannah Journal of Medicine* [new series], *The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, and *The Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*. The first is a bi-monthly journal, containing seventy-two pages of original and selected matter, and is edited by Juriah Harriss, M.D., James B. Read, M.D., and J. G. Thomas, M.D. The last number contains four original communications of interest, with the record of a recent meeting of the Georgia Medical Society. Among the original papers is the conclusion of one on Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis by Dr. Harriss, which is interesting as giving an account of this disease as it occurs under the influences of a Southern climate. The abstracts and selections are judiciously chosen, and the Savannah Journal has a practical character which promises to make it very useful to its readers.

The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal is a revival of a well-known publication of high professional standing, and is also issued bi-monthly. Each number contains one hundred and eighty-four pages, and the one before us, for October, fully sustains its old reputation. It contains valuable articles on Wounds of Large Joints and Resection, contributions from the dearly-bought experience of the period of the Journal's suspension, and an excellent paper by Prof. Jones on the Relations of Malarial Fever and Pneumonia. The views which it presents are eminently wise and judicious, and we are glad to see that the author's opinions coincide with those of the most advanced members of the profession at the present time with regard to treatment in the latter. One of the concluding paragraphs shows the drift of the whole paper. "Uncomplicated pneumonia, especially in young and vigorous constitutions, almost always gets well, if, instead of being lowered, the vital powers are supported, and the excretion of effete products assisted." This Journal will hold a place in the first class

of medical periodicals; it is edited by L. A. Dugas, M.D., De Saussure Ford, M.D., and W. H. Doughty, M.D.

The *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal* is a monthly, and as revised, the October number is the eighth of Volume VII. It hardly comes up to the other Georgia journals in interest or value, but exhibits a decidedly energetic spirit on the part of the editors, Drs. J. G. Westmoreland and W. F. Westmoreland. Several of the papers are too much in the "spread-eagle" style to suit our taste. A page and a half of what are emphatically, as they are styled in the Journal, "original lines," contain about as much doggrel and bombast as we ever happened to see in the same space; to say nothing of the sentiment which they contain, the malignity of which is more than counterbalanced by the absurdity and extravagance of the language. A large part of the fifty pages of the present number is made up of valuable selections. We must defer to a future number a notice of some other new and revived journals, some of which are an honor to the profession and the country.

WE think our readers will be interested in the address by Prof. Valerj, the publication of which we begin this week. It shows that there are enlightened minds in the medical profession in Italy, notwithstanding the impression to the contrary produced by the treatment in the cases of Cavour and Garibaldi. The address was translated into English by the author.

Portability and Communicability of Cholera.—The following cases, illustrating the portability and communicability of cholera, are communicated to the *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer* by Dr. W. H. Mussey:—

"A Mr. Falrod died of cholera in Cincinnati. His father took the body to Portsmouth, Ohio. During the exercises in the church, the father was taken sick with the cholera and died the same night. A daughter was then taken sick and died. The mother also died. Another daughter who had taken care of the family, but had returned to the house where she resided, was taken sick and died the next day. There was no cholera at that time in Portsmouth, and these four cases of death are traceable to the case from Cincinnati.

"A gentleman in Greenup County, Ky., had been in Louisville and returned home, having a diarrhoea. The night of his arrival, his wife was seized with the cholera and died the next day. She had not been from the farm for a long time, and had no communication with the outside world but by the return of her husband from a cholera region, having a *choleraic diarrhoea*. It is claimed by high authority, that persons having choleraic diarrhoea, can communicate the disease to others, though they may not die of the disease themselves.

"A child named Kettle, nine years old, died a week ago last Sunday night on Elm Street (in this city), west side, four doors north of the canal. At the funeral services on Monday, a playmate, the child of a Mr. Miller (residing two or three doors from Mr. Kettle), kissed the corpse, was taken sick, and died of cholera on Wednesday."

Success in the Treatment of Cholera.—In Notes on Cholera, by an American Missionary at Constantinople, as published in the *Chicago Medical Examiner*, we find the following:—

"We have attended just 102 cases of those who were in bed when we called. These were bad cases, the symptoms plain; a number of them being in the collapsed state, and past hope, when we began to attend them. Of the 102, 18 have died; all the others have recovered, or are recovering. Besides these, we have given medicine to a large number, probably 350, who have come to our room with cholera symptoms, either diarrhoea or vomiting, or both. Of these, I presume, not 3 per cent. have died."

On the Treatment of the Pedicle of Ovarian Tumors by the Actual Cautery.—From the Abstract of the Proceedings of the British Medical Association in the *Medical Times and Gazette* we take the following:—

"Mr. Baker Brown read a paper on the treatment of the pedicle of ovarian tumors by actual cautery. This practice had been adopted by the author in thirty-six cases, twenty-three of which had previously been given to the Profession in two papers read before the Obstetrical Society. Mr. Brown now gave in detail thirteen more cases. The following analysis will show the result of this treatment:—Of the whole number, five have died, of which two occurred in the first twelve and three in the present series. In not one of these had death resulted where the cautery had been used alone, with the exception of the second; here death was due to haemorrhage from the site of an adhesion in the utero-rectal fold, which could not safely be reached by the actual cautery. In the remaining four, one or more ligatures had been used in addition to the cautery, the latter, from various causes, not having perfectly secured the pedicle. In these four, the causes of death were respectively—1. Peritonitis, with hypertrophied heart and thickening of aortic valves. 3. Peritonitis; no autopsy allowed. 4. General peritonitis. 5. Shock; a small quantity of coagulated blood on the stump. Mr. Baker Brown drew the following conclusion from his experience of this treatment:—That it is preferable in all cases first to employ the cautery. Should this fail, no harm has been done, and the ligature may be resorted to without disadvantage. The method of using the clamp was fully explained, and a newly improved instrument was exhibited. This clamp possessed parallel blades, and the bone, formerly fixed to the back of the clamp to diminish heat during division, was now separated, except by two long rivets, from the blades."

Practical Medicine—Its present Position.—Dr. John Hughes Bennett, in his Address in Medicine before the British Medical Association at its recent session, sums up his opinions on the present stand-point of practical medicine as follows:—"1. That the empirical method of treating disease has reached its utmost limits, and that little further improvement is to be anticipated from it.

"2. That the great advance which has taken place in the science of medicine has led, and is leading, to various modifications in the rules of medical practice, which only lately were in general use.

"3. That these modifications principally consist in putting more confidence in the powers of nature, having recourse more frequently to the assistance of diet and other hygienic influences, and in employing more sparingly blood-letting and other so-called heroic remedies.

"4. That the value of many remedies in certain diseases is unquestionable, and that their judicious employment confers invaluable benefits upon mankind; but the utility of others is disputed or little known, and with regard to these a careful investigation is imperiously required.

"5. That such investigations demand great labor, advanced knowledge, and much valuable time, and that experience has demonstrated the impossibility of carrying them out satisfactorily without funds to remunerate investigators.

"6. That all applications of scientific treatment require the co-operation of medical men at large, and that no trustworthy results are likely to meet with general confidence in future, unless founded on extensive data, and formularized by a correct statistic."—*Edinburgh Med. Jour.*

New Hampshire Medical Institution, Dartmouth College, Hanover.—The annual medical commencement of this Institution took place on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 31st, at the close of the term. The session has been quite successful. The advance of the fees, instead of diminishing the number of students, has had the contrary effect—the school has not been larger, with one exception, for twenty years. The number of graduates has also been unusually large.

The exercises consisted of an interesting and practical address by Thomas Wheat, M.D., of Manchester, one of the delegates of the New Hampshire Medical Society, and the reading of two prize theses by their authors.

Two prizes were offered by Prof. Dixi Crosby on the following subjects:—I. For the best thesis on "Anthrax." II. For the best thesis on "Causes, Pathology and Treatment of Uterine Displacements."

The prize for the best thesis on the first was awarded to Marshall Lebanon Brown, and on the second to Harris Orlando Palmer.

After the conferring of the degree of M.D., a triennial catalogue of the College was presented to each of the graduates.

NAMES AND RESIDENCES.	THESES.
Francis Irving Bradford, Randolph, Vt.	<i>Variola.</i>
Marshall Lebanon Brown, M.S., Keene,	<i>Anthrax.</i>
Albert Gallatin Chadwick,* Boscowen,	<i>Generation in Man.</i>
Gilman Colby, Grantham,	<i>Abscess.</i>
James Austin Davis, Lebanon,	<i>Hypertrophy of the Heart.</i>
Daniel Wright Dimock, So. Coventry, Conn.,	<i>Chronic Ulceration of the Stomach.</i>
John Frank Fitts, Candia,	<i>Pneumonia.</i>
Ira Pearson George, Sunapee,	<i>Contagious Typhus.</i>
Henry Artemas Gilman, Gilmanton,	<i>Disordered Functions of Digestion.</i>
James Wallace Gregg, East Corinth, Vt.,	<i>Saturnismus.</i>
Hiram Tenney Hardy, Thetford, Vt.,	<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>
Zenas Millard Kempton, Liverpool, N. S.,	<i>The Physical Signs from the Lungs.</i>
Darwin L. Manchester, Waupaca, Wis.,	<i>Variola.</i>
Ezra Mitchell, Jr., Groveton,	<i>Doses of Medicine.</i>
William Theodore O'Donnell, Lempster,	<i>Causes, Pathology and Treatment of</i>
James Robinson Nichols, Boston, Mass.,	<i>Uterine Displacements.</i>
Harris Orlando Palmer, Orfordville,	<i>Intermittent Fever.</i>
John Howard Peck, Montpelier, Vt.,	<i>Hysteria.</i>
Charles Humphrey Perry, Woodstock, Vt.,	

* Deceased.

NAMES AND RESIDENCES.	THESES.
William Wirt Piper, Biddeford, Me.,	<i>Variola.</i>
Charles Dudley Prescott, Meredith,	<i>Anthrax.</i>
Andrew R. G. Smith, A.M., Brunswick, Me.,	<i>Tuberculosis.</i>
Hermon Joseph Smith, A.B., Dover,	<i>Scorbutus.</i>
Hiram Watson Tebbets, Concord,	<i>Dengue.</i>
Henry Porter Watson, Groveton,	<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>
Adams Brock Wilson, Bradford, Vt.,	<i>Phthisis Pulmonalis.</i>
Natt. Wilson Woodhouse, Barnstead,	<i>Diphtheria.</i>
Lewis Humboldt Whitehouse, Bangor, Me.,	<i>Diphtheria.</i>
Henry Davis Wyatt, Campton,	<i>Gonorrhœa.</i>

ALBERT SMITH, *Secretary.*

Expectant Treatment of Erysipelas.—In speaking of the recent discussion on erysipelas in the Boston Society of Medical Improvement, the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal* says:—

"No mention was made, as far as appears, of the tincture of iron, which is, beyond all question, the most valuable medicine in many cases of the disease. Indeed, we know of physicians who regard this remedy as a specific in erysipelas, and though we have no faith in specifics, we believe they are nearer right than the wise nullopatherists of Boston."

Wounds inflicted by the Needle-gun.—Dr. Bruce, of the University College, London, who has been engaged in studying the effects of the balls employed by the three armies during the recent European war, declares, after a minute examination, that he cannot agree with the opinion generally adopted, that the bullet of the needle-gun produces a less serious wound than that of the Austrian Minié.

VITAL STATISTICS OF BOSTON.
FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1866.
DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths during the week	44	38	82
Ave. mortality of corresponding weeks for ten years, 1855—1865	36.2	36.7	72.9
Average corrected to increased population	00	00	79.2
Death of persons above 90	1	0	1

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.—Donders on Asthenopia.—Treatment of Cholera, by T. W. Shasted, M.D., Pittsfield, Ill.—Enormous Enlargement of the Spleen, by Frank A. Young, M.D., West Charlton, N. Y.—Clinics of Berkshire Medical College, reported by M. L. Bates.—On the Practical Uses of the Laryngoscope and Rhinoscope, by Ephraim Cutter, M.D.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.—An Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis. By John Bowman, F.C.S., late Professor of Chemistry in King's College, London. Edited by Charles L. Bloxam, F.C.S., Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London, &c. With one hundred and seven Illustrations. Fourth American, from the Fifth revised London Edition. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea. 1866.—Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. By J. S. Jewell, M.D., Chicago.—Transactions of the Medical Society of the County of Kings, N. Y., for December, 1860, January, February and March, 1861, and for June and July, 1862.

DEATHS IN BOSTON for the week ending Saturday noon, Nov. 10th, 82. Males, 44—Females, 38. Accident, 1—disease of the bowels, 1—Inflammation of the bowels, 1—congestion of the brain, 2—inflammation of the brain, 2—burns, 2—cancer, 2—cholera infantum, 1—cholera morbus, 1—consumption, 11—convulsions, 2—debility, 2—diarrhoea, 2—dropsy, 2—dysentery, 5—epilepsy, 1—erysipelas, 1—scarlet fever, 1—typhoid fever, 1—disease of the heart, 3—malformation of the heart, 1—infantile disease, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—congestion of the lungs, 3—disease of the lungs, 1—Inflammation of the lungs, 13—marasmus, 3—old age, 2—peritonitis, 1—puerperal disease, 2—rheumatism, 1—scalded, 1—smallpox, 1—thrush, 1—unknown, 4.

Under 5 years of age, 31—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 20—between 40 and 60 years, 14—above 60 years, 11. Born in the United States, 53—Iceland, 20—other places, 9.